

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/045,187, entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RANDOM EARLY DETECTION OF DATA PACKETS OF NETWORK CONNECTIONS", ~~attorney docket number 23397.03100~~, filed October 18, 2001; and is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/045,290, entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSERTING EMPTY MEMORY CELLS INTO A DATA FLOW OF NETWORK CONNECTIONS OF A COMPUTER NETWORK", ~~attorney docket number 23397.03300~~, filed October 18, 2001; and is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/045,288 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,005), entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CACHING FREE MEMORY CELL POINTERS", ~~attorney docket number 23397.03400~~, filed October 18, 2001; the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.